Grade of Central Secretariat Service and Grade 'C Stenographers of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service with effect from 1.1.1986. The same revised pay scale will also be applicable to Assistants and Stenographers in other Organisations like Ministry of External Affairs which are not participating in the Central Secretariat Service and Central Secretariat Stenographers Service but where the posts are in comparable grades with same classification and pay scale and the method of recruitment through Open Competitive Examinination is also the same.

2. Pay of the Assistants and Grade 'C Stenographers in position as on 1.1.1986, shall be fixed in terms of Central Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules 1986. The employees concerned shall be given •option to opt for the revised scale of pay from 1.1.1986 or subsequent date in terms of Rule 5 *ibid*, read with Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 7(52)-E.IH/86 dated 22.12.1986 & 27.5.1988 in the form appended to Second Schedule of the rule *ibid*. This option should be excercised within three months of the date of issue of this O.M. The option once excercised shall be final.

3. Formal amendment to CSS(RP) Rules, 1986 will be issued in due course.

4. This issues with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance, (Department of Expenditure) *vide* their U.O. No. 7(43)/ IC/89 dated 30.7.90.

(Sd./-) (Gurnihal Singh Pirzada) Under Secretary to the Govt, of India.

To
All Ministries/Departments.

Exemption under FERA to NRIs

410. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for granting general exemption under FERA to non-resident Indians for setting up industries in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) A proposal envisaging, *inter-alia*, grant of exemption under various provisions of FERA, 1973 for declaration of foreign currency assets held by the NRI if they choose to come to India for a temporary period for setting up industrial/business enterprises or taking up, specialised short term assignments, has been received. The matter is under examination.

Prices of Tea

411. DR, RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the trends of tea production and its prices in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to check the rising prices of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For improvement in tea production, Tea Board is providing financial assistance through various development schems. For expansion of tea cultivation in non-traditional areas also, financial assistance is-being given. Production of leading tea producing companies is being monitored to assess the performance vis-a-vis target set for them for 1990.

(c) To check the rising prices of tea, Government have taken the following steps:—

(i) Sales of tea at the auction is being regulated by the Tea Board so as to make sizeable quantities available for domestic consumption.

(ii) The producers have been asked to make available about 10 Million kgs of

tea to be sold in packet form through retail outlets in important Centres in the country at a price of about Rs. 40/- per kg. plus local taxes.

(iii) Producers have been asked to maximise their offerings of tea in all the auction centres.

(iv) A Committee headed by the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce meets at least once a month to monitor tea prices and take corrective measures.

(v) Government also review frequently the price situation of commodities including tea.

Electroal Reforms

412. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Election Commission /various political parties for electoral reforms; and

(b) what is Government's reaction to the various recommendations/ suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH . ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) A number of suggestions for electoral reforms have been received from time to time from several sources including the Election Commission/Political Parties. These suggestions were placed before the Conference of Political Parties convened by the Prime Minister on 9th January, 1990. (Statement) *(See below)*

(b) In pursuance of the decision taken in the said Conference a Committee consisting of representatives of Political Parties and other eminment persons was appointed to examine the entire gamut of Electoral Reforms. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the following four Bills have been introduced in the Budget Session of Parliament:—

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990

2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990

3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990

4. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1990.

Statement

I. Combating nexus between money, mafia and politicians.

2. Public financing of elections.

3. Compulsory maintenance Of accounts by political parties and their audit by an agency nominated by the Election Commission; framing of rules/ By-laws for operation of Political Parties—non adherence resulting in forfeiture of registration.

4. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner in consultation with the opposition; Banning C.E.C. and other Election Commissioners to accept any office after their term is over; Consultation with CEC in the appointment of other Election Commissioners.

5. Independent Secretariat of the Election Commission.

6. Expenses on Secretariat to be a charged Expenditure.

7. Booth capturing; Disqualifying a candidate on whose behalf booth capturing is attempted.

8. Multi-purpose photo Identity cards.

9. Expeditious disposal of Election Disputes.

10. Holding bye-elections in time.

11. Fresh Delimitation.

12. Rotation of reserved seats.

13. Banning of Legislators to hold elective office at district or lower levels.

14. Improvement in Anti-Defection Law.

15. Elimination of non-serious candidates.

16. Election not to be countermanded in case of death of an independent candidate.

17. Contesting of Election to be restricted to two constituencies.

18. Reduction in the age limit for being chosen as M.P./MLA/MLC.